LIBRARY
LET OURSELVES GO?
JUST WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?!
JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES.
DON'T OPEN THEM UNTIL I TELL YOU, OKAY?
HEY! YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING FUNNY, ARE YOU?!
I'M NOT!
I'M JUST UNWIND-ING!
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN?
BLINK
Tune In to the Midnight Heart

Ah...

WHOA!!!

JESUS!!!

CRASH

RIGHT IN THIS SCHOOL, WHERE IT'S FORBIDDEN TO BRING SNACKS!

UZUKI, YOU MISCREANT!

YOU TRIED TO FEED ME CHOCOLATE, DIDN'T YOU?!

GUESS THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG NOW.

TEE HEE.

MUNCH

CLATTER

SNACKING IN SECRET WHILE DOING STUDENT COUNCIL WORK IS WHAT I LIVE FOR!

IS THIS REALLY APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR FOR A STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER?

THIS IS HOW I UNWIND!

BWAAAM

WHAT IF SOMEONE RATS YOU OUT?

AND THERE'S NO WAY BRINGING THIS MANY SNACKS IS ACCEPTABLE!

SNACKS: LIGHTLY SALTED POTATO CHIPS, ENOSE WAFER STICKS, BISCO BISCUITS

RIGHT. I'LL BE IN HOT WATER IF ANYONE FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS.

SST

SO...

WHY DON'T YOU BECOME MY *PARTNER IN CRIME* AND EAT THEM WITH ME?

THEY'RE YUMMY, YOU KNOW?

Come on!

OKAY, HERE COMES THE AIRPLANE!

STOP.

Come on, boy!

THE YAMABUKI FAMILY IS VERY STRICT ABOUT RULES.

SAYS THE BOY WHO BROUGHT COUGH DROPS TO SCHOOL.

GRIND

GRIND

GRIND

WOW...

YOU WON'T TAKE A BITE EVEN IF I DO THIS, HUH?

YOU'RE LIKE A DOG THAT HATES TOOTH BRUSH-ING!

WHY'D WE EVEN GO TO THE LIBRARY ANYWAY?

CLATTER

YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE ME YOUR ACCOMPLICE. I WON'T RAT YOU OUT.

I NEED TO USE THE COPY MACHINE, SO I FIGURED I'D DO IT IN THE LIBRARY.

OH, I TOOK ON SOME WORK, YOU SEE.

IF YOU'RE JUST AN ORDINARY PERSON, YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE UNTIL DARK...

TO FINISH ALL THIS WORK.

HUH?

GIVE ME TWO-THIRDS OF IT.

I SEE. THAT IS QUITE A LOT OF WORK.

すっ

SUSH

YOU'RE FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER, AREN'T YOU?

LET'S FINISH THIS POSTHASTE AND GO HOME.

I, HOWEVER, AM AN EXTRA-ORDINARY BEING!

I CAN DO ALL THIS WORK AND THEN SOME IN MY SLEEP.

THANK YOU, YAMABUKI-KUN.

YOU'RE SO RELIABLE.

YOU BET I AM.

I SAID EARLIER THAT YOU SHOULD RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE MORE...

...BUT YOU'RE ALSO WAY TOO PASSIVE.

WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK YOUR MIND MORE OFTEN, EVEN IF ONLY WITH THE BROADCASTING CLUB?

I KNOW YOU VOLUNTEERED TO COLLECT AND ORGANIZE IDEAS FOR SPORTS DAY...

BUT IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO DO?

THIS IS FINE.

MY ROLE IS TO BE THE FACILI-TATOR.

HOW IS ANY OF THIS FINE?

PLOP

PLOP

I MEAN...

BOX: APOLLO

...EVEN AMONG SNACKS...

...THERE ARE MAIN STARS, AND SUPPORTERS WHO PROP THEM UP.

I'M PLAYING THE **SUPPORTING ROLE** HERE.

MUNCH

THEY'RE FIGHTING IN A WORLD WHERE TALENT IS EVERYTHING.

THOSE THREE ARE ALL INCREDIBLE, AREN'T THEY?

THEY'RE JUST SO RADIANT.

I WANT TO HELP THEM SHINE EVEN BRIGHTER.

...OVER WHAT I WANT.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO PRIORITIZE WHAT THEY WANT...

BESIDES, THOSE GIRLS ARE ALL RATHER... QUIRKY.

IF THERE'S NO ONE KEEPING THINGS IN ORDER, THE WHOLE CLUB WOULD JUST CRASH AND BURN.

...

I CAN SEE WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.

HEH HEH. RIGHT?

LAST YEAR'S SPORTS DAY WAS PRETTY MUCH A DUMPSTER FIRE.

NOTE: 38°C IS 100.4°F. THE LINE THAT DIVIDES NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA, POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE 38TH PARALLEL, IS SOMEWHERE AROUND LATITUDE 38° N.

THOSE GIRLS SURE ARE A HOPELESS BUNCH!

CROSSED THE 38-DEGREE THRESHOLD.

38°C, NOT 38°N, BTW. I'M DOWN WITH A COLD, NOT FLEEING FROM NORTH KOREA.*

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE DOING FINE TO ME.

RIKKA-CHAN COULDN'T SHOW UP BECAUSE SHE GOT A COLD.

It's pronounced "Oogami"!

Dekakami-san sure is fast!

NENE-CHAN READ THE NAMES WRONG WHEN SHE WAS DOING COMMENTARY.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY THIS YEAR.

ESPECIALLY SINCE...

Iko-chan fell along with the amp!!!

IKO-CHAN WRECKED THE EQUIPMENT.

...I'LL MOST LIKELY...

...LEAVE THE CLUB THIS AUTUMN.

BFFT

THAT'S NOT IT.

I JUST WANT TO FOCUS ON MY STUDIES.

WHAT ?!!

WHY?! ARE YOU TRANSFER-RING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?!

THE ANNOUNCERS FOR FLAGSHIP STATIONS ALL GRADUATED FROM GOOD COLLEGES, YOU SEE.

THEY ALSO HAVE GOOD LANGUAGE SKILLS OR OTHER TALENTS AS THEIR SELLING POINT.

Heh heh heh.

I'M UTTERLY **LACKLUSTER** IN EVERY WAY...

MY GRADES ARE DECENT...

BUT I'LL NEED TO DO BETTER TO GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE.

...SO I CAN'T GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE WITHOUT HARD WORK.

I SEE.

YOU WANT TO MAKE SOME GOOD MEMORIES ...

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE CLUB TO STUDY FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.

THAT'S WHY YOU WANT TO RELEGATE YOUR LACKLUSTER SELF TO A BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE...

AND SUPPORT THOSE THREE RADIANT GIRLS...

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THIS YEAR'S SPORTS DAY IS A HIT...

EEEEEP ?!!

BAM

PA-THET-IC!!!

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

SINCE WHEN WERE YOU MY DAD?!

I DIDN'T RAISE YOU TO BE SUCH A GUTLESS, COWARDLY GIRL!

WHY WON'T YOU TRY TO MAKE ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE?!

STAY IN THE CLUB!

DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO FOR SPORTS DAY!

YOU JUST NEED TO MAKE SOME GOOD MEMORIES, RIGHT?!

UH... B-BUT...

THEY SAY THAT IF YOU CHASE TWO RABBITS, YOU'LL CATCH NEITHER...

UZUKI...

はぁ SIGH

WHO DO YOU THINK THE MAN IN FRONT OF YOU IS?

A GOFER BOY.

THAT TITLE REALLY STUCK WITH YOU ALL, HUH?

SST

すっ

I'M HERE FOR YOU.

NEVER FORGET THAT!

IF YOU'RE TOO AFRAID TO SPEAK YOUR MIND...

I'LL STAND BY YOU AND BACK YOU UP.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR STUDIES...

I'LL TUTOR YOU.

WHY WOULD YOU GO TO SUCH LENGTHS FOR ME?

YOU'RE NEITHER OF THOSE!

...ARE EITHER **STUPID** OR **ALONE.**

THOSE WHO CHASE TWO RABBITS BUT CATCH NEITHER...

!

HOW WOULD I DO THAT IF YOU'RE NO LONGER HERE?

SST

DIDN'T I SAY...

THAT I'LL MAKE YOU A TRUE PRO?

!!!

YOU ARE...

JUST AS RADIANT AS THE OTHER THREE.

≠

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

ALSO, I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT YOURSELF.

...THE WORDS OF A YAMABUKI?

ARE YOU DOUBTING...

THUMP

BLUSH

BLUSH

TH-THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!!!

...

DO YOU REALLY THINK...

...THAT I'M GOOD ENOUGH TO STAND ALONGSIDE THEM?

YES.

I'M GOOD ENOUGH, HUH?

THUD

AHH, MY FACE IS ALL HOT NOW...

THUD

IT'S JUST SO EMBARRASSING TO HEAR YOU SAY IT...

YOU ACTUALLY HAVE SOMETHING...

THAT YOU WANT TO DO FOR SPORTS DAY, RIGHT?

THIS ISN'T ALL I WANT TO TALK ABOUT, THOUGH.

YOU JUST HAVE TO PRESENT IT TO THE CLUB, THEN.

I'LL WRITE A SCRIPT FOR YOUR PRESENTATION.

I JUST CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU, CAN I?

...BUT I ACTUALLY HAD AN IDEA I WANTED TO TRY FOR SPORTS DAY.

I REFRAINED FROM SAYING IT...

CAN YOU KEEP ALL THIS A SECRET BETWEEN US?

OH, ALSO...

TH-THANK YOU...

DON'T TELL THEM I'M HAVING YOU HELP ME, EITHER!

PRETTY PLEASE?

...OR HOW I ACTUALLY CONSIDERED LEAVING THE CLUB.

DON'T TELL THEM I HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX ...

WHAT? THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN SNACKING IN SECRET?

NO, NOT THAT.

SST

GRAB
MUNCH
MUNCH
CHOMP
CHOMP
WH-WHOA ...!
WE'RE PARTNERS IN CRIME NOW.
YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.
...
HEH HEH.
YOU'VE GOT CHOCOLATE ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

I CALL IT THE "CONFESSION SERVICE."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...I'D LIKE TO DO THIS ON SPORTS DAY.

AND SO...

STARE

WOW

IT'S VERY NOVEL!

THIS SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF FUN!

THIS MIGHT SPICE THINGS UP IF WE CAN PULL IT OFF.

I-I KNOW IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF PREPARATION!

SWEAT

SWEAT

IF YOU THINK IT'S NOT FEASIBLE, JUST SAY SO...

SWEAT

A-ARE YOU SURE?!

LET'S DO THIS!

CHAPTER 10: PARTNERS IN CRIME